

AUG 12 2011

EPA-REGION 10

August 8, 2011

Ms. Teresa Kubo
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Northwest Region
805 S.W. Broadway
Portland, OR 97205

Dear Ms. Kubo,

In our letter of December 2, 2010 we outlined some of our environmental objections to BPA's proposed route 30 of its I-5 Reinforcement Project. The route would threaten sensitive fish and wildlife habitat just upriver from Lucia Falls on the East Fork of the Lewis River, WA.

Although the BPA has now reduced its routes to four, it has retained route 30 as a possible optional segment to its South Central Alternative. We wish to call additional attention to the dangers posed by route 30.

Since we wrote to you we have compiled an annotated list of many of the trees, shrubs, wild flowers and ferns on or in the immediate vicinity of our property. Our list is based on the notes we made over a period of nine years. It includes a rich array of indigenous species, some of which are in decline, and should not be impacted by BPA's project. The plants in our list are referenced to J. Pojar and A. MacKinnon, Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast, 1994. Can you recommend an independent botanist who could verify our identifications and help edit our list?

We would also like to document many of the interesting land animals, birds and scenic features that would be impacted by BPA's high voltage lines. Lucia Falls is one of the few places where a person can sit at a picnic table and watch steelhead, salmon and cutthroat trout leap six to eight feet into the air to reach spawning grounds such as the one on our property threatened by BPA's route 30. A photo documentary could also include important scenic and recreational features such as the historic Chelatchie Railroad and the Moulton Falls hiking trail which was designed to be accessible to the handicapped. Can you recommend a photo journalist who could help us make such a documentary?

As we mentioned in our letter of December 2, 2010, BPA's route 30 would threaten Bald Eagles. Regretably since we wrote to you, our local Public Utilities Department (PUD) installed three new utility lines across the East Fork of the Lewis River directly above Hantwick Bridge at Lucia Falls. Sadly on May 11, 2011, a Bald Eagle flew into the new lines and fell to the ground. Fortunately the bird did not appear to be seriously injured, because it eventually flew away. Our neighbor, Dr. Thomas Wolford, witnessed the bird's collision with the relatively low voltage lines. The incident underscores the threat to the Bald Eagles that BPA's high voltage lines would pose, if they were to be installed on route 30, less than four tenths of a mile upstream from the Hantwick Bridge.

We hope you and your colleagues at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will join us in our opposition to route 30. We hope you will help us protect one of the most beautiful and environmentally sensitive stretches of the East Fork of the Lewis River, the largest remaining undammed river in Clark County, WA.

We appreciate your interest and help in this matter.

We hope that you and your colleagues enjoy the rest of your summer.

Sincerely,

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